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ZONING CODE BILL SENT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

(Bel Air, MD - August 19, 2008) - - Joined by the Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning, Pete Gutwald and members of the Comprehensive Zoning Code Work Group, County Executive David R. Craig today announced the submission of the Zoning Code Bill to the Harford County Council. The work group, consisting of 25 members from the community, industry and business, toiled for nearly one year to revise the Harford County Zoning Code.

The Zoning Code Bill marks the first time in nearly a quarter of a century that the code has undergone any substantial changes.

"In August 2005 when I first took the oath of office as County Executive, I pledged that Harford County Government would do a better job of managing growth than in the past," County Executive Craig stated. Furthermore, I pledged that we would operate in accordance with the Master Plan adopted in 2004. This bill will do just that," Craig stated.

Although not without controversy, the final bill proposed to the County Council, represents the consensus work of the Comprehensive Zoning Code Work Group. The County Council will carefully study the proposed legislation over the course of the next few months, receiving input and comment from the public, before taking final action of the legislation in .

The Comprehensive Zoning Code Work Group was facilitated by Geosyntec Consultants of Columbia, Maryland. Geosyntec is an internationally known firm with more than 20 years of experience involving complex problem solving related to the environment, natural resources and civil infrastructures.

"As a life-long resident of Harford County, I am concerned about the quality of life we leave behind for our children and their children," the county executive remarked. "The bill we send to the County Council, contrary to what some may believe, does not expand the development envelope nor diminish our open space we have worked hard to achieve," Craig stated.

A synopsis of the bill and the proposed changes can be found on the Harford County Government website at www.harfordcountymd.gov.